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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/522,881

07/22/2005

Gerald Faulhaber

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5245

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7590

10/19/2006

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

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EXAMINER

CAVALLARI, DANIEL J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2836

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/522,881

Applicant(s)

FAULHABER ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel J. Cavallari

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 4 and 7 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 5 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 July 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The examiner acknowledges a submission of the amendment filed on 7/27/2006. The amendments to Figure 1, the specification and claims 1-5 and new claims 6 & 7 are accepted.

Response to Arguments

The previously made objection to the drawings has been withdrawn in view of the replacement drawings received on 7/27/2006. These new drawings are accepted.

The previously made 112 rejections of claims 1, 2, & 4 have been withdrawn in view of the amendments.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 & 2 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- Claim 4 is incomplete. The sentence "A method for redundant voltage supply of safety-relevant systems the following steps" is incomplete and grammatically incorrect.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1 & 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Lo (US 6,501,196).

Lo teaches:

- A first, second, and third drive device read on by controllers 108 (See Figure 1) of circuits 100A-100C (See Figure 3 & Column 5, Line 51 to Column 6, Line 5) which drive switching units 102 (See Figure 1) for switching over voltage supplies of power sources A-C (See Figure 3) of safety systems (See Column 1, Lines 9-21).
- The drive devices being each connected to a communication channel, read on by the interconnection of controllers 108-108x (See Figure 1 & Column 4, Lines 34-45).
- The first and second drive devices each having a device (106) for monitoring a voltage (See Figure 1 & Column 4, Lines 3-23).
- The first drive device can trigger a switching process of the switching unit and output a request message to the communication channel if the device for monitoring a voltage (106) detects no voltage, the second drive device checking

whether the first drive device has driven and switched the switching unit and switching the unit itself if it is determined that there is no voltage applied to the load and further outputting a request to the third drive device wherein the third device can receive the request messages from the first and second drive devices and can trigger a switching process of the switching unit when both messages are received, read on by the master/slave procedure (See Column 5, Line 5-Column 6, Line 16).

In regard to Claim 2

- Wherein the switching unit is comprised of relays (See Column 3, Lines 25-39).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 5, & 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In regard to Claims 3 & 5

Lo teaches a triple redundant power supply system and Jenson (US 6,527,348) teaches a redundant control system incorporating a CAN bus however there is a lack of motivation to combine the power supply system of Lo with the CAN bus of Jenson.

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In regard to Claim 6

Lo teaches a device for triple redundant power supply and Shi (US 5,654,859) teaches a triple redundant power supply system for an automobile (See Column 6, Line 60 to Column 7, Line 4) however there is a lack of motivation to combine the power supply system taught by Lo with a vehicle as taught by Shi.

Claims 4 & 7 are objected to as being dependent upon an objected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection of claim 4 recited above.

In regard to Claims 4 & 7

Lo teaches a triple redundant power supply system and method in which a master and slave configuration is used to control the power supply system however prior art fails to teach a method of controlling a triple redundant system as set forth in the particular order of claim 4.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Cavallari whose telephone number is (571)272-8541. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571)272-2800 x36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Daniel Cavallari

October 10, 2006



BRIAN SIRCUS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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